

October 15, 2013

Good Morning.

My name is David Kuras. I am the Business Manager for the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local #36. I have been in the Elevator industry since January of 1980. I served on the Code Adoption Committee for the State twice and I am now on the State Elevator Safety Board serving as Vice Chair.

I am here this morning to talk about why House Bills 4970 and 4971, should not be adopted.

For the almost 34 years of installing, maintaining and dealing with elevating devices in the State of Michigan, my number one concern is the safety of the people who use them. This is why I feel everyone needs to be licensed to work on this type of equipment.

The State has a Final Inspection on every unit installed to make sure they are safe and installed according to the codes written to protect the end user. If you do away with these code requirements, you are putting the people who install and use these devices in harms way. The mobility impaired need these devices to have a somewhat normal life and should be able to have the peace of mind that it was installed by a licensed contractor that employs licensed journeyman that do this for a living, not someone who occasionally puts one in. These devices are not like installing a Hot Water Tank, which, when it arrives on a job site is already certified by Underwriters Laboratory as being code compliant. Hot water Tanks are a confined unit that all you do is hook up the water and gas or plug it in. Whereas, when Access equipment arrives on the job it's in pieces and must be assembled. You have to put pieces together, install it to code to make sure that someone cannot get their fingers or any other body part into a pinch point. The installer must adjust safety switches and make sure the unit stops when it is supposed to. Does anyone realize there are overhead clearances that need to be maintained on a Stairway Chairlift to insure a

person does not break their neck hitting a low hanging object or ceiling? Just attending a class from the manufacturer for a day or two, then not installing one for a year does not qualify a person to safely install this type of equipment.

The owner of the home may or may not be aware of the dangers that can be created by an improperly installed unit. And what's worse, is visitors usually have no idea there might be an accident waiting to happen when they are around these units. When kids come over to visit they find this equipment can be a neat toy to play with if allowed. This will happen, and we don't need them to be maimed or worse. Let's keep all of these devices at least installed by a licensed contractor and journeyman and inspected by the State. At least we know at that point in time they are code compliant.

When using qualified personnel working for licensed and insured contractors, we can rest assured they are covered by insurance if something happens.

I talked to my agent at Allstate and she said that most homeowners carry an average of \$100,000.00 dollars in liability insurance and after that, you can loose your bank account, garnishing of wages or even loose your home if something happens and you get sued.

Nobody wants that to happen.

Other States are adopting Licensing to make sure any elevating device that moves people is installed correctly and to code by qualified people. I know this because I have been contacted by them and Michigan licensing rules are being used as a model for them. Why are we now trying to put the mobility impaired in danger by taking away licensing? This is not the right thing to do. I would urge you to vote no on these HB 4970 and 4971

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

David Kuras

Business Manager/Financial Secretary

I.U.E.C. Local #36